

**REMARKS**

The above-changes to the claims have been made to round out the scope of patent protection being sought and generally to place the claims in better condition for examination on the merits.

Claims 1-15 are canceled by way of this Preliminary Amendment. New claims 16-17 are added. Applicants note that claims 16-17 submitted herein are identical to withdrawn claims 17-18 of the parent case (U.S. Patent Application No. 09/125,963). Early allowance of claims 16-17 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this application, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.


In the event any further fees are due to maintain pendency of this application, the Examiner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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